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J. Dobbbs

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Stephen PALM

Group Art Unit: 2637

Appl. No. : 09/281,813

Examiner: D. Nguyen

Filed : March 31, 1999

For : ACTIVATION OF MULTIPLE XDSL MODEMS WITH IMPLICIT CHANNEL PROBE

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAR 20 2003

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

Responsive to the final Office Action mailed on December 17, 2002 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in which the three month shortened statutory period for responding thereto runs to March 17, 2003, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in the manner indicated below. A marked-up copy of the claims is attached hereto as "APPENDIX A - MARKED-UP CLAIMS":

Please amend claim 2, as follows:

2 (Three Times Amended). An apparatus for establishing a communication link, comprising:

a negotiation data transmitter, associated with a plurality of initiating communication devices, that transmits at least one carrier including first negotiation information bits